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NEW WORLD REVIEW

FEBRUARY 1960

The Arms Race Must End!	Jessica Smith	3
The British People and Peace	Gordon Schaffer	10
A Longer Life for Man	Dr. I. Lukomsky	13
Geriatrics in Rumania: Dr. C. I. Parhon; Dr. Anna Aslan		16
Farewell to Moonshine	Max Zinger	20
China's Communes Come of Age	Anna Louise Strong	23
Impressions of Hungary	Arthur D. Kahn	30
Care and Treatment of Eyes in the USSR	Dr. Eugene Eagle	34
The Great Dam at Bratsk	Archie Johnstone	38
Music in Moscow	Ralph Parker	42
When a Person Is in Trouble		46

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Our Roving Correspondent
Editorial Consultants on Negro and Colonial Questions

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The Arms Race Must End!

by JESSICA SMITH

THE AGREEMENT on May 16 as the definite date for the Summit Conference, and announcement that President Eisenhower will visit the Soviet Union June 10-19, returning the visit of Premier Khrushchev to the United States, open up new possibilities for ending the cold war and consolidating the progress toward peace already achieved.

While we can still speak only of possibilities, the fact that high level negotiations are ahead and that other East-West negotiations and contacts are proceeding at various levels must itself act as a strong check to the efforts of those who oppose peaceful settlements.

Despite persisting differences at the Geneva Conference on ending nuclear weapons tests, progress has been made, and worldwide pressures to end tests cannot be ignored. Similarly, world pressures will be focused on the forthcoming negotiations of the new UN Disarmament Committee, opening March 15 in Geneva, which will take up Soviet proposals for complete and universal disarmament within four years, as well as other proposals for steps toward disarmament.

In American-Soviet relations, new Lend-Lease negotiations are under way, offering hope for a settlement which will open the way to mutually advantageous trade arrangements.

Increasing American-Soviet cultural and scientific interchange under the new two-year agreement mean a constantly expanding base of co-

operation and understanding essential to peaceful coexistence. The beginning of exchange of labor delegations through the visit of the ILWU delegation to the Soviet Union and increasing interest in exchanges evinced in other unions, can help create a stir among the lower echelons of trade union leaders which in time can defeat the efforts of Meany and other top AFL-CIO leaders to continue the cold war. New appraisals by leading economists and business circles demonstrating the advantages of converting arms production to peace production in terms of jobs, public welfare works and prosperity, should be helpful in creating a better understanding of the need of ending arms race among American trade unionists and workers generally.

Peace, as we have noted repeatedly, has become the main issue of the election campaign this year. This is the result on the one hand of the new trend in high government and business circles which, at last recognizing the reality of Soviet progress and growth in economic and also military fields, has come to the conclusion that peaceful accommodation is the only solution which offers hope of survival. And on the other, it is the result of the massive peace sentiment of the American people which has reached a new high point as a result of the Khrushchev visit. It seems clear that Governor Rockefeller withdrew from the campaign because it became ob-

vicious he could not win on his cold war platform.

The possibilities for peace exist. The cold war forces can be defeated. But the decision rests with the American people. They alone can do it. This means that all forces for peace must be more articulate, more insistent, than ever before. The existence of a vast peace sentiment will have to be taken into consideration by all office seekers. More than that, a special effort should be made to compel all candidates to take a definite stand on peace, on the ending of nuclear weapons tests, on disarmament, on ending the cold war.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish an article by Gordon Schaffer telling of the extent and forms of the mounting peace movement in Britain. Lessons for the United States can be drawn from this. We have in preparation an article summarizing the various peace organizations and trends in this country. Many local actions are not covered in the periodicals that come to our office. We would appreciate the help of our readers in sending us material on peace actions and expressions in your own communities.

We cannot sit back and assume that peace will come of itself. The very fact that the peace forces of the world are in the ascendant means that the war forces, in their frenzy, will become more active than ever.

Governor Rockefeller's withdrawal does not mean that the cold war forces backing him will cease their operations, any more than the Truman-Acheson forces in the Democratic Party will cease theirs.

On November 21, the Roman Catholic Bishops of America issued a viciously anti-Communist and anti-

Soviet statement under the title of "Freedom and Peace," a long diatribe of hate, in which they made the completely false charge:

The Communist world poses a two-fold threat to peace. First, that of military aggression of which the more recent instances continue to exemplify both ruthlessness and perfidy; secondly, the widespread sowing of the seed of hatred within nation and among nations. To meet this constant threat to peace is the free world's greatest problem.

Powerful forces in the Pentagon, the AEC and elsewhere are trying to block any moves toward disarmament or ending nuclear weapons tests. On December 18 Dr. Edward Teller, "Father of the H-Bomb," declared before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco that the country should speedily prepare itself for "limited nuclear warfare" to "curb aggression." He said nuclear weapons could be designed in "discriminating fashion" for limited engagements! He is one of those who wants tests to continue and is the author of a plan for holding tests in a hole so deep that according to the *New York Times*, (Dec. 30) it would "make the international test-detection program virtually useless." The influence of such forces was seen in President Eisenhower's regrettable announcement that the United States would end its moratorium after December 31, and consider itself free to resume tests, although promising advance notification.

A new effort is under way to try to show that the USSR is having "internal difficulties," because of the very frank criticisms that are being made by Khrushchev and other leaders of whatever shortcomings are found to exist, although serious observers understand that these criti-

cisms are taking place against a background of immense progress in every field, and are only part of the program for still greater progress.

Cold war forces are continually trying to create doubts on the sincerity of Soviet peace policies. Some effort was made to stir up excitement about the Soviet Union's announcement of rocket tests affecting a limited area in the Pacific, but these rather fizzled out in view of the fact that the United States is carrying on such testing in international waters all the time, and that the Soviet rocket tests were declared to be for peaceful purposes only, involving no nuclear equipment nor any danger of radiation fall-out.

In the international field, we see the results of the rearming and supplying of nuclear weapons to West Germany, where former Nazis hold high posts, in the vicious anti-Semitic outbursts, which have spread to other countries, including our own. Chancellor Adenauer is doing his best to torpedo the Summit negotiations in advance. France is about to carry out its nuclear test in the Sahara. The new U.S.-Japanese treaty looks toward war, not peace.

The cold war was continued in the UN in the West's insistence on bringing up the Hungarian question again. Efforts to stir up dissension over the Laos question came to nothing when the UN's own investigating commission there reported that it could find no signs of outside intervention or aggression by North Vietnam forces. Yet the over-all results of the last Assembly showed improvement in East-West relations, in the steps forward on the disarmament question, on peace-

ful uses of outer space, and the agreement that Poland would serve the first year and Turkey the second of the controversial next two-year term on the Security Council.

Things are quiet again on the Indian-Chinese border, and we may hope that the conciliatory attitude of the Chinese in seeking negotiations and Nehru's efforts to avoid war and maintain Indian neutrality, despite the pressures against this policy, may lead to a peaceful settlement. While American-Soviet relations are the most immediate issue in the struggle for coexistence, peace forces must also concern themselves with the questions of normal U.S.-Chinese relations, and the seating of the real China in the UN.

We must watch all evidences of trying to continue the cold war, and fight them wherever they appear.

We must watch all evidences of a desire for peace, and uphold them and strengthen them.

State of the Union—U.S.

Let us look now at what the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union had to say in their recent messages to their respective Congresses on "The State of the Union," and see what promises they hold for disarmament and peace.

It was significant that President Eisenhower devoted the greater part of his State of the Union message to Congress on January 7, to American-Soviet relations and foreign affairs. He emphasized his resolve "that the United States shall become an ever more potent resource for peace . . . for people everywhere." The search for peace, he said, has become necessary because:

With both sides of this divided world in possession of unbelievably destructive

weapons, mankind approaches a state where mutual annihilation becomes a possibility. No other fact of today's world equals this in importance—it colors everything we say, plan and do.

Yet in the next sentence, the cold war attitude of the need of providing "a deterrent to aggression" creeps in ("aggression" being a word to which years of propaganda have added automatically the phrase "from the Soviet Union"), thus seemingly contradicting the President's agreement with Premier Khrushchev that the main road to peace must be through negotiations, not force, and that general disarmament is the most important question facing the world today.

Then, noting that recent Soviet actions and deportment suggest the opening of a less strained attitude in East-West relations, the President felt compelled to add, "if these pronouncements be genuine," that they must be "tested in action," and that we cannot permit ourselves to be "misled by pleasant promises" until so tested, thus apparently contradicting the impression he had given at the time of the Khrushchev visit of his belief in the sincerity of the Soviet desire for peace and that a real beginning toward the ending of the cold war had been made.

While deploring these evidences of influence from cold war forces, we can still take satisfaction from the President's statement that we must approach these new opportunities with the utmost seriousness.

As ways of beginning, President Eisenhower mentioned first the need of widening communications between the American and Soviet peoples and the development of mutual understanding.

He further spoke of hopeful pos-

sibilities in the reopened negotiations for a nuclear weapons test ban in Geneva, although at the same time gloomily casting doubt on the sincerity of the Soviet scientists as reaching "politically guided" rather than "freely formed," conclusions.

While declaring that the Soviets had "professed a readiness to negotiate seriously" in the field of disarmament he also declared that they had not yet made clear their plans "if any" for "mutual inspection and verification." This despite the fact that the Soviet plan for complete and universal disarmament submitted to the United Nations, makes absolutely clear the need for inspection at each stage, while quite naturally leaving the detailed working out of this to the negotiating nations.

We can only welcome the statement that "The United States is always ready to participate with the Soviet Union in serious discussion of these or any other problems that may lead to peace with justice."

The President mentioned with approval the signing of the multilateral treaty, in which the United States, the Soviet Union and ten other nations joined, providing for "the exclusively peaceful use of Antarctica, assured by a system of inspection."

In the field of foreign aid President Eisenhower emphasized the need to help "uncommitted and newly emerging nations" to reach a higher degree of progress. Yet again cold war attitudes crept in, indicating a fear of growing socialist competition in economic aid, rather than constructive cooperation and competition in the best interests of the nations concerned. This was appar-

ent from Eisenhower's explanation:

By extending this help we hope to make possible the enthusiastic enrollment of these nations under freedom's banner. No more startling contrast to a system of sullen satellites could be imagined. (Italics added)

While the President has resisted Pentagon and other pressures for still bigger arms expenditures, he proposed that our present huge \$46 billion military budget remain at approximately the same level. (This figure, including expenditures for the Atomic Energy Commission and foreign military aid, is more realistic than the figure of \$41 billion given officially.) Mr. Eisenhower spoke of our country's great military power in nuclear weapons, missiles, nuclear submarines, armed forces and military bases abroad, adding the assurance that this power, while capable of inflicting immense destruction on any attacker, would never be turned loose "except in defense." He made clear there would be no reduction in our vast military establishment "until tangible and mutually enforceable arms reduction measures are worked out."

Yet, despite the cold war overtones, hope may be drawn from the fact that on balance the main burden of the President's message seemed to be on the side of peace. James Reston wrote in the *New York Times* on January 8:

For every implied warning, however, the President added an assurance that his fondest hope was for greater understanding through negotiation, and he left the impression that it was his intention to concentrate in the last year of his stewardship on his search for what he called a "guaranteed peace."

Khrushchev also stressed the importance of negotiations, and announced a cut in Soviet armed forces.

State of the Union—USSR

In his address to the Supreme Soviet on January 14, Premier Khrushchev reviewed the economic progress of the past year, reporting that industrial production had risen by more than 11 per cent, as against the 7.7 per cent increase provided for the first year of the Seven-Year Plan, and that consumer goods production had risen by 10.3 per cent as against the 6.6 per cent increase planned. He also spoke of progress in outer space rocketry, education, rising living standards, and reduction of the working day. (Unfortunately in this report we are dependent only on rather sketchy excerpts published in the U. S. press, the full translation of the text of the speech not yet being available.)

Mr. Khrushchev opened his discussion of foreign affairs with a reference to the Soviet Government's proposals on complete and universal disarmament, submitted to the UN, as the spearpoint of its peace policy. Noting the support received for these proposals throughout the world and the plans for a Summit meeting, he declared:

The clouds of the threat of war have started to blow over, although not as quickly as one could wish.

The Soviet Premier expressed the conviction, on the basis of the spirit of frankness and cooperation that prevailed in his talks with President Eisenhower, that serious negotiations on the basis of give and take could lead to the settlement of any controversial question. He enumerated the main subjects the Soviet Government felt should be included in the Summit talks as follows:

In the first place, one should mention the question of complete and universal disarmament; the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, including the question of the free city of West Berlin; of the banning of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons; of relations between East and West.

He stressed the importance of the Geneva conference on ending nuclear weapons tests and said that despite their slow progress, some positive results have been achieved which bring possibilities of agreement nearer. The people of the world, he said, had regarded it as an encouraging sign that due to voluntary action on the part of the negotiating powers, no tests of atomic or hydrogen weapons had taken place anywhere in the world for over a year; but regret and anxiety had been evoked everywhere when President Eisenhower announced on December 31 that the United States was ending the moratorium.

Khrushchev said he could not agree with President Eisenhower that prospects for reaching an agreement to end tests had become gloomier, but felt that recent Soviet proposals meeting the Western powers halfway on matters concerning control and inspection opened up new prospects for progress.

He welcomed President Eisenhower's assurance that the United States is resuming the talks in the spirit of desiring to reach agreement, and affirmed that the Soviet Union would do everything in its power to overcome all obstacles that had arisen at Geneva and strive for an early treaty ending all nuclear weapons tests forever. Referring to the U. S. position that underground tests could be camouflaged to defy detection by any instruments, he

said that perhaps modern techniques for detecting underground blasts were not absolutely foolproof—the important thing is that if an agreement is signed it must be honestly carried out by all sides.

Cut in Soviet Armed Forces

The Soviet Premier declared:

While visiting the USA we became convinced that the most far-sighted statesmen, businessmen, representatives of the American intelligentsia—not to speak of workers and farmers—desire not a continuation of the armament race, not a further increase in nervous tension, but calm and peace.

He then announced the proposal of the Soviet Government unilaterally to reduce its armed forces by another 1,200,000 men, in addition to the cut of 2,140,000 made in the last four years. When the new cut was effected, he said, the army and navy would consist of 2,423,000 men, a figure below the level proposed by the three Western powers during the disarmament discussions of 1956.

The question of giving up production of nuclear arms, said Khrushchev, must be the result of an agreement among the countries possessing them. Meantime, the defense of the USSR was assured by a sufficient quantity of atomic and hydrogen weapons and powerful rocket equipment. The airforce and navy, he said, had lost their previous importance in view of the modern development of military equipment, which was replacing them. Almost the whole of the airforce is being replaced by rocket equipment; bombers and other obsolete machinery have already been cut down sharply; in the navy greatest

importance was being assumed by the submarine fleet, while above water ships could no longer play the part they had in the past. The armed forces of the country, he reported, have been largely transferred to rocket and nuclear arms, which would continue to be perfected until such time as they were banned.

The Soviet Premier also announced that a still more formidable

weapon, a "fantastic weapon," was now in the hatching stage.

Following Khrushchev's address, the Supreme Soviet unanimously passed a resolution providing for the cut in armed forces recommended by the Government, with a corresponding cut in military and naval colleges, armaments and military expenditures of the state budget. It appealed to all governments of the world to follow suit.

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The British People and Peace

by GORDON SCHAFFER

ON THE first Saturday of the New Year in Britain, 54 men and 26 women were arrested at a rocket base in Northamptonshire after deliberately defying the law in order to draw attention to the menace of nuclear war. They were all members of the Direct Action Committee against Nuclear War, six of whose leaders were already in jail after refusing to give a guarantee not to organize protests. The government invoked a law passed 600 years ago in order to find a way to put these six in prison and despite nationwide protests, the Home Secretary refused to exercise his right to reduce the sentences.

On that same Saturday, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the body responsible for the Easter marches between the nuclear arms research station at Aldermaston and London, staged a procession of protest at rocket bases. The British Peace Committee organized a widely representative conference to discuss practical details of how the economic problems associated with disarmament and the switch from war to peace production could be tackled. A group of young Conservatives issued a statement condemning the support for colonialism by the present government, calling for the re-

lease of Dr. H. K. Banda, the leader of the Nyasaland people and for acceptance of the right of the African people to take power.

The Labor Party was silent.

The events of this day sum up in a dramatic way the situation in Britain as we enter a new decade, pregnant with danger but also fraught with hope. The people are more awake than at any time since 1945. They no longer have to be roused to the threat of the nuclear arms race; they are asking insistently what they can do to combat it. The film "On the Beach" with its warning of the annihilation that could follow an accidental launching of nuclear weapons attracts packed houses at one of London's biggest West End cinemas. The audiences file out in a hushed silence.

The mass circulation newspapers and even the *Times* have begun to tell the brutal facts about the return to power in West Germany of the men who supported Hitler and the Nazi regime. To those who have studied the developments in the Federal Republic, the desecration of the synagogue and the chalking of anti-Jewish slogans and swastikas just before Christmas, was only another incident in a long series with which we were painfully familiar. But it came with a sickening shock to millions, because this time at least some of the press told the truth about the links between this return to the bestiality of Hitlerism and

GORDON SCHAFFER, former assistant editor of the London *Reynolds News*, is Chairman of the British Peace Committee. He is a frequent contributor to *New World Review*.

the regime which is making it possible. The deadly peril of arming the ex-Nazi generals with nuclear weapons and allowing them a preponderant position in the NATO alliance became a personal threat.

In this atmosphere, the people are seeking ways to assert themselves. All the activities of New Year Saturday were unofficial. They were carried through by organizations created not only outside the political parties but in face of active opposition of the political leaders. This development is of major importance because the whole postwar history of Britain has been conditioned by the cold war alliance between the leaders of the Conservative and Labor Parties. They both back the arms program and the military pacts. They both support the manufacture of nuclear bombs and the policy of the "deterrent," which their own military experts assure them could lead to nothing but national suicide. With slight differences of emphasis, both Labor and Conservative governments have backed colonial wars against liberation movements, although the Labor record was far better in India, Ceylon and Burma.

The first revolt against this bipartisan policy came with the support of a number of well-known figures for the first peace conferences at Wroclaw and Paris, out of which came the British Peace Committee with its links with the World Council of Peace. During the most bitter period of the cold war, many of these first supporters faded away. Peace workers, canvassers for the Stockholm appeal against the bomb and members of the religious and pacifist organizations opposing war, were attacked and vilified. They

were accused of being traitors to their country. But as the nuclear race developed and the realization of the total threat it involved became more fully understood, the peace movement widened. Scientists, doctors of medicine, teachers, artists, and other groups formed their own peace committees. Then three years ago, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament brought into action vast new forces. Many of those joining the new movement had previously held aloof from political struggle, but it also brought into action tens of thousands from the Labor Party and the Trade Unions, who had been prevented from participation in the work of the British Peace Committee, because of the ban imposed by the leaders. It also, for the first time since the war, inspired the young people into action.

Through all this period, a battle was waged inside the Labor Party and in the trade unions whose votes largely determine the policies of the Labor Party. Every year, the agenda of the Labor Party conference had pages of resolutions calling for disarmament, a ban on nuclear weapons and trade and friendship with the countries building socialism. In the trade unions, the same pressure was exerted by the rank and file, but the big votes were swung by narrow majorities in favor of the cold war. The biggest breakthrough in the trade union movement came with the acceptance of anti-nuclear war policies by the million-and-a-quarter strong Transport and General Workers Union. But still it was not enough.

Premier Macmillan realized far better than Hugh Gaitskell, the leader of the Labor Party, the

strength of these movements. That pressure, plus the realization by the military experts of the bankruptcy of the nuclear "deterrent" policy, was the motive force of the Macmillan visit to Moscow and the pledge to press for summit talks, which won the General Election.

The struggle since the election has been to insist on these pledges being fulfilled. Again this pressure for genuine peace policies has been coming from a much broader section of the people than ever before. The Khrushchev disarmament proposals won support from many who had previously given full backing to the cold war and the arms drive. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, who refused to lift a finger to support the peace movement, said the proposals were in the true spirit of Christianity. Bodies like the United Nations Association, which previously had given general support to the Western alliances, demanded disarmament and support for the Khrushchev proposal.

The leaders of the Labor Party were forced by a revolt of nearly half the Labor M.P.s to issue a statement condemning the giving of nuclear weapons to Western Germany, but they allowed Parliament to be adjourned without a debate on foreign policy.

Meanwhile, the government, under pressure from Dr. Adenauer, abandoned the support for disengagement in Europe which Macmillan had expressed in the joint Moscow statement and appeared to be going back on its advocacy of a genuine interim settlement of the Berlin problem.

Macmillan had spoken in glowing terms of trade with all countries as the solution for many of the world's

problems, but the new government took deliberate steps to curtail trade with China, Poland and Czechoslovakia, while agreeing to a deal with the West German arms firms to supply them deadly weapons.

That was the situation as 1960 opened. The results of the long struggle for peace were apparent in the fixing of a summit conference, in the setting up of a disarmament commission with much more precise terms of reference and a more equitable representation than before and in the public declarations of the government that it looks to both for steps to genuine progress. Certainly a wider body of British opinion than at any previous period actively demands measures aimed at replacing the cold war and the nuclear arms competition with friendship and co-existence. The hostility towards the Soviet Union which was fanned by constant propaganda never penetrated deeply; today it hardly exists. The British people would welcome the most far-reaching agreements for disarmament. No one in Britain fears the Soviet Union or believes it represents any threat to us.

On the other hand, the American action in abandoning the pledge to stop testing nuclear weapons has aroused anger everywhere and if no agreement is reached at Geneva, the blame will be put firmly on Washington. There is resentment too at the way Adenauer is being allowed to take over the discredited policies of John Foster Dulles.

In the critical months before the summit meets, the various peace organizations and many other sections of the British Republic will be in action, determined that the promise of success will not be frustrated.

A Longer Life For Man

by DR. I. LUKOMSKY

ON ONE of his voyages Swift's Gulliver happened to visit a country where there were immortal people among its inhabitants. This staggered Gulliver's imagination. He eagerly looked forward to meeting them, hoping to learn many valuable, instructive and interesting things from the people who had lived for centuries. However, he was bitterly disappointed when he saw them in person. The immortals were a sorry sight, showing every sign of infirmity, mental deterioration and moral degradation.

Though a piece of fiction, this episode expresses a true idea—all people want to live long, but nobody wishes to be old. For an old age accompanied by senility can hardly entice anyone, no matter how strongly one may desire to prolong one's life.

Now that advances in science are making mankind's most daring dreams come true and the conquest of space has begun, interest is growing in the possibility of longevity, and the question is often asked as to whether science is capable of substantially prolonging our lives in the foreseeable future.

The changes occurring in the human body with age are numerous. Therefore, it is not so easy sometimes to tell which of them are caused by aging and which are only concomitants of old age, often but not necessarily inevitable. The opinion has been current for a long time that aging has its origin in the changes that take place in the blood

vessels. This point of view has been aptly summed up in the words, "Our age is the age of our arteries." However, the latest investigations, notably those of N. N. Anichkov, have established that arteriosclerosis is not necessarily an inseparable feature of old age senility, though it mostly develops in advanced years.

Attempts have also failed to explain senility by atrophy, that is, a diminution of size, of tissues or organs in the body. Nor has the hypothesis been borne out that the decisive role in this respect is played by the endocrine glands. Studies have shown aging to be caused by general rather than local changes. The atrophic alterations in the pituitary, thyroid or other glands are but manifestations rather than causes of this general process. Much more important are general physical and chemical changes in the body.

The most crucial alteration incident to old age, for example, is the dryness of tissues. As explained by Ruzhicka of Czechoslovakia, this is because with age tissues and cells lose their power to combine water. Old age also brings about marked changes in metabolism. It has now been ascertained that aging is accompanied by a reduction in basal metabolism and cutaneous respiration as well as by some qualitative changes in albumins and reduced oxygen absorption.

In oxygen deficiency, for example, the substances which release energy for use of the organism cannot be

fully oxidized in the cells, and the span of life is reduced accordingly. Under-oxidized products of metabolism are converted into inert insoluble substances which accumulate in the body to cause it to age.

Such explanations of old age and the process of aging indicate the ways and means to make man's life longer. For one thing, aging and the accompanying disease can be substantially retarded through a purposeful intervention into the processes going on in the cell. A proof of this has been provided by the experiments made on animals by Soviet and foreign scientists (Lazarev, Mackey, Hatch, and others) who were able to eliminate senile changes in animals. In his experiments on animals, C. I. Parhon of Rumania, who has been fruitfully working in this field for many years, administered thyroxine, epiphyseal extract, hormones of sexual glands, antireticular serum and some other substances. These and previous experiments have led him to believe that with man, too, senile changes can be made to retrograde. But man poses an immeasurably more delicate problem than any animal, however highly organized it may be.

The human organism is far more complex. It is subject to a wider range of environmental influences, including social factors which have a direct effect on both man's nervous system and his psyche. As the psychic and physical conditions of man are inseparable, any mental experience has a certain effect on man's health and, consequently, his life span.

The human organism is no mechanical combination of cells and

tissues. It is an integral whole. This is the reason why the attempts to "rejuvenate" the organism by a local action on a particular organ, or system in it, have yielded in the best of cases only a temporary effect. Positive results are only possible through the use of drugs which influence the whole of the body. Among these drugs are Dr. Bogomolets' serum, Dr. C. I. Parhon's procaine hydrochloride treatment, and some others.

It should be mentioned, however, that none of these and other possible drugs can be considered a universal means to control aging and the accompanying diseases. Treatment should be both individual and comprehensive, taking into account the entire condition of a person, his life history, and the previous diseases. Nothing but harm can be done by hasty use of a newly invented drug without consulting beforehand a specialist in the field.

On the other hand, while self-treatment should be vigorously censured, everybody can combat premature aging through an appropriate way of life. Very instructive in this respect are the data gleaned by research workers who have examined very old people in Daghestan, Abkhazia, and the Ukraine.

In Daghestan, the average age of the 20 persons examined was 114½ years. Eight of them were urban residents, while the rest of them lived in the mountains, breeding livestock and growing crops. Their diet was simple, predominantly of dairy products and vegetables. According to Alikishiev, an investigator, much credit was due to strict hygiene, active leisure, and a num-

ber of traditions passed down from generation to generation, such as gymnastics, balanced work about the house, and manual labor.

Daghestan's rugged nature has reared strong people who do not know laziness or other human weaknesses substantially shortening their lives. Almost all the old people examined were good humored and cheerful, retaining the features they had had in youth. Most of them had never been ill and were remarkably well. Many of them continued to work and were able-bodied.

It might be thought that such longevity together with full strength and cheerfulness is due to favorable climatic conditions. However, this surmise is refuted by similar studies in areas with entirely different climatic and natural conditions. In other words, it is balanced work and leisure as well as proper diet, rather than place of residence, that have a decisive effect on longevity.

Any excesses stimulate diseases which shorten life. Sclerosis, for example, is speeded up by the accumulation of substances rich in cholesterol in the organism. This is why the middle-aged ought to avoid fat meat, fish and butter in their diet. By far the most harmful effect, however, is produced by liquors, as they affect vital organs and metabolism. This ought to be borne in mind by people of any age.

In leisure, which promotes longevity, special emphasis should be placed on physical training and sports. Age is no obstacle in this respect, though it should be taken into account when contemplating any particular sport or exercises. The best possible results are ob-

tained through regular physical training or sports from earliest age onward.

Though the amount of work should be adjusted to age, nothing facilitates premature senility so much as the change-over from activity to idleness. This applies both to manual and mental work.

Sophocles, the ancient playwright, completed his great *Oedipus* trilogy, when he was 80. Titian, the painter, died with his brush in his hand at 99. Mathematician, physicist and astronomer Isaac Newton, the writers Voltaire, Goethe and Victor Hugo, and the composer Giuseppe Verdi continued to work far into old age. Leo Tolstoy and Ivan Pavlov died of accidental infectious diseases rather than of senility. Their work was extremely valuable till the very end.

In the past decades a large group of prominent Soviet scientists, artists and writers who have lived to old age have been examined. They all continue their regular activities. Far from losing any of their mental and physical abilities, they remain very fruitful in their fields. On the other hand, there have been cases when the complete cessation of habitual activity in old age entailed a breakdown and quick decrepitude, though the reason for the change, a very natural one, was to give old people a well deserved rest after many years' strenuous work.

Scientists working in biology, medicine and allied fields have made valuable findings which provide a stepping stone to the solution of the problem of longevity and healthy old age. However, if a real success is to be achieved here, a closer co-ordination of effort in various fields

will have to be obtained, and a further impetus given to the newly established sciences—gerontology which is the study of old age, its phenomena and diseases, and geriatrics which is the department of medicine dealing with prophylaxis and treatment of the diseases incident to advanced age.

In the Soviet Union, an Institute of Gerontology has been founded in Kiev, the Ukraine. In a number of Soviet cities Gerontologists' Societies have been organized. Their success is guaranteed not only by the fact that such establishments and societies embrace specialists from

various fields, but also by the extremely favorable conditions created by the socialist system for the noble aim—a longer life for man—to be realized.

The maintenance of the old in socialist society, the feeling of security, the utilization of what ability to work one has, and wide, though still incompletely used, preventive measures for old people, have opened up bright prospects for Soviet scientists to give man a longer life with full physical and mental strength in old age.

Translated from Krasnaya Zvezda, November 26, 1959.

Geriatrics in Rumania

DR. C. I. PARHON

The famous Rumanian scientist, C. I. Parhon is a pioneer in the study of geriatrics and it was largely owing to his work that the Bucharest Institute of Geriatrics was founded in 1951, which became a center for the study of advanced methods of combating old age. He, however, did not discover the beneficial effects of the drug procaine or novocaine, which Dr. Anna Aslan had already begun investigating some years previously at her experimental clinic in Timisoara.

AMONG Rumanian scholars and scientists with an international reputation, one of the most outstanding is Academician Dr. C. I. Parhon, whose contribution to the progress of modern endocrinology has been of prime importance.

He was born in 1874 at Cimpulung, about 120 miles northwest of Budapest. After brilliant medical studies he worked in the clinic for mental diseases of the great Rumanian physiologist Georgi Marinescu, where in the course of carrying out

research work on neurology he came to make his first observations on endocrine diseases. Ever since that period he became more and more interested in endocrinology. In 1900 he published his first work in this field, while in 1909 he published the first book on endocrinology in the world, in collaboration with his colleague M. Goldstein.

In 1912 Dr. Parhon was appointed professor of neurology and psychiatry at the University of Yassi, where he remained until 1934 when he was appointed professor of endocrinology in Bucharest, this being the first chair for this faculty created in Rumania. Dr. Parhon held this professorial chair till 1940 when he was removed by the fascist dictatorship owing to his democratic ideas and progressive stand.

After the overthrow of fascist dictatorship, Dr. Parhon resumed his professional chair and in 1946 he

was at the head of the newly created Institute of Endocrinology in Bucharest bearing his name. In recognition of his scientific activity, the Rumanian People's Republic Academy elected Parhon as member, nominating him honorary president, while the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science elected him as correspondent member and the Leopoldine University of Prague proclaimed him *Doctor honoris causa*.

The scientific activity of Dr. Parhon covered a wide field of investigations and research, comprising problems of endocrinology, neurology, psychiatry, biochemistry, pediatry, embryogenesis, plant biology.

The most important research work carried on by Dr. Parhon, which has ensured him a world-wide reputation in scientific circles, has been in the field of endocrinology. He is justly considered as one of the founders of modern endocrinology. His first works in this field dealt with the relationship between the constitution and endocrine glands. The endocrine theory of constitution expounded by him for the first time in 1900 marked a significant advance at the time owing to the fact that it went beyond the morphological classification which for centuries had been dominant in this domain.

Another basic problem, clarified by Dr. Parhon, was the endocrine explanation of organo- and histogenesis. He demonstrated that the hormones intervene in the appearance and development of organs, that the internal secretions play an important role, during embryonic and foetal development, as well as in extra-uterine life, in developing the various organs and tissues.

The endocrine study of constitution, and his researches on the role of hormones in organo- and histogenesis, led Academician Parhon to the study of growth pathology. His investigations regarding the role of hormones and that of extracts of the thyroid, pituitary, thymus and gonads in the growth process have contributed much to the progress of this domain of biology. His research work relating to the biology of age, especially that dealing with the study of old age, which has roused world-wide interest, is naturally closely connected with the domain of constitutional investigations, of organogenesis and of growth dystrophies.

Although the problem has a much wider scope in the way in which it is looked upon by Dr. Parhon, his attention was particularly focused on the aging process and the fight against it. His first work in this field was published as early as 1908, bearing on cases of senile osteomalacia. During the years 1923-25 his general conception of the role of the time factor in the appearance and evolution of biological processes became consolidated. In 1925 he published a comprehensive study of the results of his investigations, creating a new term to designate the study of biology in relation to age, *ilikiobiology*.

Since then Dr. Parhon has published numerous papers relating to the clinical or experimental study of old age, culminating in a monograph published in 1948 in which he synthesized his experience on old age and its treatment. As regards the aging process, Parhon ascribes an important role to metabolic disturbances, especially to the predomi-

nance of disassimilation over assimilation, and biochemical modifications in the blood and tissues. Finally, Dr. Parhon attributes an important role to the alterations of the endocrine glands in old age and suggests their treatment through glandular or hormonal extracts without excluding the application of other therapeutic means.

Dr. Parhon considers that there exists a physiological old age and a precocious pathological one. Hence his standpoint that old age may be prevented and treated as any other disease may be prevented and treated. In contradistinction to the opinion of some others, he sees in the problem of old age not merely a question of hygiene but also of biology, with important consequences from the standpoint of preventive and curative therapeutics.

Lately, his research work on the problem of old age effected by the method of conditioned reflexes, has centered particularly on the modifications of higher nervous activity in old people and the influence of various hormonal and organic treatments in general.

The scientific work of Dr. Parhon—only a few aspects of which have been mentioned here—is characterized by the manifold themes explored by him, the great wealth of facts, the pioneering aspects concerning very many domains and the large biological conception in the handling of problems. Parhon has promoted endocrinology as part of biology and not as a simple medical specialty, thus opening through his biological conception a vast field for research with great future prospects. He is the creator of comparative endocrinology, of the endocrinology

of ages, of the endocrine theory regarding constitution. He developed tissue endocrinology and glandular correlative pathology.

His scientific work provides a picture of the development of endocrinology during the first half of the twentieth century in Rumania, and in many respects also on an international plane.

Dr. Parhon is not only a scientist but at the same time a great professor, physician and citizen. He is an example of the progressive scientist who has not remained isolated but has struggled from his youth onwards to realize the aspirations of the people and to do away with their sufferings just as he has also carried on his fight in the laboratory and in the hospital against diseases, against old age and against death.

DR. ANNA ASLAN

DR. ANNA Aslan, the Rumanian doctor in charge of the Institute of Geriatrics in Bucharest, who has caused a world-wide sensation by the results she has obtained with the rejuvenating drug she has called Hg, spent ten days in England last November.

During her visit she gave two lectures at the Apothecaries Hall in London, under the auspices of the British Geriatrics Society (the British Medical Society for the care of the Elderly). There was a record attendance at the meetings, which were attended by many medical specialists. A lunch was given in the House of Lords in honor of Dr. Aslan, the host being Lord Amulree.

Dr. Aslan also visited St. James's Hospital in Leeds, where she was received by Dr. Hugo Droller. On

her return to London she visited various institutes and hospitals, and had talks with specialists and others. At University College Hospital, she was entertained at lunch by Dr. Alex Comfort.

Many British, American and Canadian patients met Dr. Aslan while in London, all of them expressing their gratitude to her for the good results of the treatment by H₃.

Dr. Aslan found that in general in Britain disabilities connected with old age were treated separately, by mechanical and physio-therapy, etc. In Rumania, however, old age itself is regarded as in part a disease with complex effects and therapeutic means are looked for to prevent the onset or alleviate the effects of this disease.

At the Institute of Geriatrics Dr. Aslan began large-scale research on the effects of procaine injections in old people. In these she found that the drug had an astonishing effect in improving general health, restoring the growth and color of hair, curing arthritic and rheumatic conditions, improving heart action and blood circulation and beneficially affecting the central nervous system with consequent improvement of eyesight, hearing and brain functions.

In view of the fact that procaine seems to act directly on the "components" of senility rather than on

the resultant diseases themselves, with a fundamental stimulating effect on the endocrine glands, and because one of its breakdown products is para-aminobenzoic acid, which has been named vitamin H₁ on account of its effect on vital life processes, Dr. Aslan has given the name H₃ to the form in which she administers procaine. Her method of use involves adjusting the drug to a certain acidity and neglect of this is responsible in her opinion for the failure of some research workers to confirm her results.

Extensive research is now being conducted at Dr. Aslan's Institute on the bio-chemical aspects of the vitamin-like action of H₃. Such experiments on the metabolism of the cell are being carried out with bacterial colonies, tissue cultures and animals. Tracer work is also being conducted with radioactive isotopes. Other studies concern the effect of H₃ on the circulation and composition of the blood, and on the central and peripheral nervous system.

These physiological investigations corroborate the facts observed in clinical studies of the efficacy of treatment with H₃ and gradually more and more knowledge of its action is being obtained.

Reprinted from The British Rumanian Bulletin, December, 1959.

THE THEATER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CZECHOSLOVAKIA in 1937 had 52 permanent theaters which gave 14,000 performances for 5 million people. By the middle of 1959 there were 78 permanent theaters in the country. By the first half of 1959 almost 16,000 performances were seen by over 7 million people.

At the end of 1959 a new law abolished taxes on all cultural, educational and sports enterprises in Czechoslovakia. Organizations sponsoring cultural or sports events will thus gain some 63 million crowns a year which were formerly paid into the state treasury in the form of taxes.

FAREWELL TO MOONSHINE

by MAX ZINGER

"YOU'LL have to watch your step from now on, Grandpa Safron," said Polycarp solemnly. "The papers say that new measures are being taken against all you chemists."

Coming as it did from an old admirer of his work, the warning could not be treated lightly.

"What kind of new measures?"

"They're not tellin', but with all them newfangled contraptions nowadays they could telly-vise that laboratory of yours from a couple of versts away."

So, early next morning Grandpa Safron loaded up his sledge with his apparatus and a vatful of his special mash and dragged his load deep into the forest. He found a spot far from the tracks of any man or beast, left the fermenting mash to get on with its own biochemical labors and returned home.

Next day his own tracks in the snow led him without difficulty to his decentralized laboratory, but a quick glance around told him that all was not as it should be. Closer inspection revealed that not a lick of mash remained.

Could he have been followed? No, there had been no tracks on the snow but his own. But still, there it was, or, if you like, there it wasn't. No mash. And no mash, no moonshine. Maybe young Polycarp was right; maybe them city boys with their telly-something could hear all, see all, smell all and tell all.

Grandpa Safron brushed the tears from his eyes and examined the ground carefully. Yes, there were

some funny scuffled marks on the surface of the snow—not like any of those marks that tell so much to an old hunter like himself.

Beyond this scuffled area, however, he picked up a clear trail. He followed it—and came upon another mystery, another shock. Three wolves, well-grown one-year-olds, lay stretched out side by side on the snow.

Grandpa Safron was no faint-heart. He'd seen and been and done plenty in his day. Why, in the war—the First World War, mark you, long before the smart young lads of the village had even been thought about—didn't he . . . ? But still—and all a wolf was a wolf and so was three wolves, only more so. And there he was, alone, empty-handed, facing his doom with no right of appeal and no one to say afterwards what were the rights and wrongs of the situation.

The wolves did not stir at his approach. Maybe the mash, his beautiful mash, had been too much for them . . . Dead? . . . Dead drunk? Nothing for it but to investigate.

Arming himself with a long branch he gave the nearest wolf a cautious but vigorous prod. No response. He poked the second hard in the ribs. Not a quiver. He gave the third a resounding thump on the rump. Not a flicker of an eyelid.

"At 'em, Safron-me-boy!" shouted Grandpa, "Truss 'em up, sling 'em on the sledge and off we go. Hand 'em over like a good lad and collect the five-hundred-ruble state

bounty for each of them. That's the Law, and just show me the man that knows and loves the Law better than Grandpa Safron."

As he dragged his load homeward he did some mental arithmetic. Fifteen hundred rubles! Not a bad bit of compensation for the loss of all that "wild cow's milk."

When he reached home he had just enough strength to throw the wolves into the woodshed, lock the door and climb into the bed-shelf above the stove, without a bite of supper and without a word to his wife about his day's work.

Early next morning he was awakened by excited shouts from his wife.

"Get up, Safron! All the devils in hell have got into our woodshed. Any minute now they'll be tearing the place down and attacking us. Get up, I tell you. Rouse the neighbors. Do something!"

Safron sat up and scratched his head. Above Yefrosinia's screams he could hear the howling and scratching and scraping of the wolves. "God be here," he mumbled through his beard "They're alive right enough. What are we to do now? Just tell me that."

"Do something, you old fool!"

"What can you do when they've got a hangover like that? Think of the morning-after temper they must be in."

Yefrosinia raised her arms in supplication. "Heaven help me," she gasped. "Here I am with devils in my woodshed and a drooling old idiot in my house. Who ever heard of devils getting drunk? They're not fools like humans are."

Grandpa Safron scratched his head in perplexity. Go to the police? That's what they're there for.

But what could he tell them? Maybe something like this?

"Friends and comrades of the police, gaze your fill upon the silly old fool now standing before you. While I made my own homebrew in my own woodshed everything was fine. But when the new measures were taken against us chemists, I decided. . . ."

No, that wouldn't do. They'd take the wolves and where would he be? Mash, moonshine, bounty—all gone. And worse to come. They'd throw the four of them into the lock-up—three one-year-olds and a 69-year-old home-brewer of long standing who never had the disgrace of a conviction against his name. Police? No!

Safron went back to bed. Yefrosinia could be trusted to keep him informed on the latest developments in the woodshed.

"How's it going, Ma?"

"Can't you hear for yourself with the racket they're making? They're tearing at the roof now, and you know that won't last long. Do something!"

The roof? No, that roof wasn't wolf-proof, Safron decided. He crept out of bed, dressed, and went off to the police station. There he told the whole story, just as he had rehearsed it.

The sergeant-in-charge kept a solemn, disapproving frown on his face as long as he could, but here was something too good to be missed. He called in his colleagues and soon they were all rocking in their chairs, holding their sides.

The sergeant cleared his throat and, mustering all his sternness of manner, told Safron: "Listen, you delinquent grandfather, the time has

come for you to turn over a new leaf. A man of your age taking up chemistry, as you call it—terrible! I'm warning you, any more of this moonshining from you and you're in for it."

Grandpa bowed his head, allowed a few moments to pass and in a quiet voice asked: "And what about the wolves, Comrade Sergeant?"

"Now, here's a curious thing. As you know I have a . . . er . . . certain standing as a hunter around here, and the director of the Zoo in the city asked me to get a live wolf or two for their collection. And here we have three of them, alive and kicking. I'll get on the phone to the director right away."

The call took some time to put through—long enough for Safron to

worry about the fate of his woodshed and his old woman.

At last keepers arrived with nets and crates and the wolves were taken away. Safron was informed that live wolves did not qualify for the state bounty but when they felt he had been mortified enough he learned that the Zoo was paying him not 500 rubles but 700 for each wolf.

In his joy and relief he opened a savings account and swore that never again would he dabble in chemistry.

No further cases of drunkenness among wolves have been reported in the district and Safron and Yefrosinia lived, all things considered, happily ever after.

(Translated by Archie Johnstone
from the Soviet magazine Moskva.)

ULANOVA ON BEAUTY, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

"WHAT DID I SEE LAST YEAR? Two continents, two parts of the world, two extreme ends of the earth: America and Asia. My trips to the United States and China have shown not only me, but all the Bolshoy artists on our foreign tours, and all those who saw the Soviet Ballet—hundreds of thousands of people—something much more important and significant than even the greatest successes of our performances.

"This 'something' transcends the bounds of art; it acquires a profound social import. Inherent in the cultural ties now developing is a tremendous power uniting people in the name of beauty, peace and friendship. The spiritual contacts between peoples are grains that bring forth rich shoots.

"There is yet another important result of the growing artistic contacts. I refer not only to the fact that people have learned much about us, but also to the fact that we too have learned much. We have become acquainted with a great many ordinary people as well as with leading artists and have seen for ourselves how talented is each nation in its own way, how inexhaustible are its possibilities.

"Each nation has a natural desire to satisfy its esthetic interests. Our task as artists is to help realize this noble desire.

"When the 17-year-old Chinese worker Chung Chun greeted the Bolshoy Ballet, he did not make a speech. He read a poem in which he described our dances as bridges linking hearts together.

"We must get to know and understand each other better, must visit each other more frequently, must by all means find a common language and common solutions for art's main task—that of uniting all men in the name of universal peace and happiness. For peace and happiness not only in the new year now beginning, but in all the years to come."

Translated from Pravda, January 1.

China's Communes Come of Age

by ANNA LOUISE STRONG

This is the introduction to a book on the Chinese Communes soon to be issued by Marzani and Munsell, through whose courtesy we are publishing it, in slightly condensed form. Miss Strong's book was written in the period of the rise of the communes. This introduction, written at the end of September, 1959, takes into account the changes of the past year.

IT IS not long since my *Rise of the Chinese Communes* was completed. But the summer of 1959 saw many events whose headlines in the American press seemed to challenge all I wrote.

The fact is, not a single commune has collapsed since it was set up! There has been some consolidation, reducing the number of communes from 26,000 to 24,000 of a somewhat larger average size. There have been ups and downs, many natural calamities of weather and one egregious blunder of statistics, but all these events were part of the coming of age of the child whose birth is described in my book.

In rural life, the people's communes are in the autumn of 1959 a base far more sure and solid than in their storming rise a year ago. They have been tested by all the floods, droughts and pests the Dragon King could hurl against them and have snatched victories incredible to ancient peasant China. They have been tested also by their own mistakes, excesses and insufficiencies;

they have checked these and gone ahead.

All China's life today takes the communes as a base for plans in industry and government, not only in farming. This morning the head of a great Industrial Exhibition, in a press conference on China's industrial growth of the past decade—output of industry today is almost twelve times that of 1949 while that of heavy industry is twenty-seven times as great—gave as a basic cause of recent accelerated growth "the great superiority of the communes for industrial development." Similarly my friend Dr. Ma Hai-teh, listing victories against diseases once endemic in China, adds: "The communes naturally make everything easier."

Last week I visited the Dense Clouds Water Control Project, a few hours north of Peking. Two rivers that for centuries ran riot, spreading floods and erosion over many counties between Peking and the sea, are guided and held in a joint reservoir by seventeen dams, and issue already as irrigation canals instead of floods; by next year they will give water and power to Peking. Originally planned as a five-year task of the late 1960's, it

ANNA LOUISE STRONG, famous world correspondent and author of many books on the USSR, China and our country, is now living in China.

is being done as a two-year job far ahead of schedule and at one-half of the budgeted cost by the labor of 200,000 people, of whom 140,000 have now gone home to get in the autumn crop.

"Of course it could never have been done without the communes," the director told me, adding some interesting detail. "At the start it was volunteer work by communes to protect their own lands from flood; they even brought their own food, tools and carts. But since March the government pays everyone a basic wage. We still class the work as 'volunteer' in the sense of honoring it, for the basic wage only gives the actual worker enough for his own food and incidentals, while his commune still looks after his family in the village and lists him for a share in the crop for the work done here. The government felt that the communes, in first enthusiasm, took burdens beyond their strength."

This remark typifies the changes of the past year. What began as a great outpouring of enthusiasm, without counting the cost, has been steadily reduced to accounting and a fair division of labor. That farmers who benefit by flood control should contribute to it is proper; it is not proper that they should do it all, for a dam that gives water and power to Peking. The distribution of burdens comes about, not by haggling and not even by collective bargaining, but by campaigns, popular initiative, wide volunteering, of which the government wisely refuses to accept too much.

Misconceptions in America seem to rise from two sources. Some confused reporting has equated the peo-

ple's communes in China with the communes which the USSR tried and rejected thirty years ago. The Chinese communes are not at all the same form as that which collapsed in the USSR. They differ in size, function, organization, method of distribution, relation to state power.

What really gave the American press the weapon of ridicule was the revelation, in Chou En-lai's report to the National Congress August 28, 1959, that the crop figures for grain and cotton in 1958, given in December as 375 million tons and 3.35 millions tons respectively, were now estimated by statisticians at 250 million and 2.1 million.

The explanation is fairly simple to anyone who traveled China's farms last autumn and pestered the Ministry of Agriculture for figures. The peasants had never seen so big a crop; they had no scales, containers, barns or elevators to handle it. They made an honest guess, in an atmosphere of boom; the county and provincial authorities passed these guesses along. I know from my own interviews that the figures reaching Chou En-lai in September 1958 set the grain crop as "around 400 million tons," while in early December the Ministry of Agriculture was struggling with figures from the provinces that totalled some 445 million tons. This was so clearly impossible that the Ministry arbitrarily cut it to 375 million "to balance the provincial exaggeration." The cut was not enough.

Moreover, many people today in China think the present 250 million an understatement, but "would rather estimate too low than too high."

One should add that until China has standardized containers and elevators the crop figures will be honest but approximate guesses; that the present reduced estimate of 250 million is a 35 per cent increase over the previous year, a magnificent gain; that part of the excess figure was really produced but not gathered, since over-enthusiastic farmers left the harvest to make incredible amounts of amateur iron and steel; and lastly, that the farmers believed their own guesses enough to stake their future food on them, handed over to the government the "surplus" for which they had no storage, and then found themselves reduced to a sweet potato diet before the next crops came in. It was the peasants' first attempt to estimate crops in a new dimension, and their inaccuracies led not to famine but to state aid, and to a keen appreciation among peasants of the importance of correct statistics.

The improved accounting, resulting from the months of "check-up" has also been seized upon in America as showing "the break-up of communes and return to the small cooperatives." This is not the case. All that has happened was implicit in the Party resolution of December, 1958, but is now more clearly defined.

China, it may be recalled, never "nationalized the land." It remained peasant-owned, first individually, and then through cooperatives. Some confusion arose, when communes appeared, as to which level of organization "owned the land." This is now resolved. The "middle unit," the production brigade, owns the land, tools, draft animals and crops, and turns over part of its sur-

plus to the commune's "accumulation fund." The jointly owned land thus belongs to a few hundred or a thousand families, all within walking distance, so that the joint land is daily within sight of all. This unit also owns the draft animals, tools, small repair shops, tailor shops and the primary school.

However, the "production brigade" is not isolated, but is part of a commune which holds the joint savings in an accumulation fund and determines the future plans. The top leaders are those on the Commune Committee, elected from all the "production brigades." In their hands is the growing property of the future: the fund for tractors and combines, the processing industries that produce for the market, the plans for countryside irrigation and flood control. In the clarified accounting, today's income depends for each man and woman on his or her individual labor, in cooperation with immediate neighbors, but tomorrow's expanded income depends on sound use and investment of the accumulation fund of the commune under the wider management.

The distinction between the "middle group" and the "lower group," commonly called the "production team," is now more sharply defined. The "small group," usually consisting of 70 to 200 families, resembles the former village unit and holds property in homes, small gardens, small family livestock; it handles public dining rooms, nurseries, kindergartens and old folks' homes, all the activities for which people do not wish to go far from home.

The principle of wages according

to work, voluntary choice in the use of public facilities, and strict accounting, stressed from the beginning, are now defined in greater detail. New measures strengthen the principle of "free choice." Last autumn, when public dining rooms were organized, the grain went direct to the dining room, and any individual who wanted his grain separate got it from there. Now the commoner practice is to give the grain to the individual who earns it, and let him take it to the dining room if he wishes. This not only stresses the principle of "payment for labor" and "voluntary choice in public facilities," but eliminates some abuses of waste. Last autumn, in the first flush of "free food," people even held "sputniks in eating" to see how much they could consume, a privilege no peasant enjoyed before.

"Free food" today is still cherished, but under control. It is voted, not "all that a man can eat," but in amounts sufficient for the children and the old people and, usually, a basic ration for the worker. The individual brings to the public dining room the amount of grain he expects to eat in the month; he checks it off each meal on coupons. If he does not eat it all, he gets the surplus back; if he eats more, he pays for it from wages. The principle that "nobody shall starve" is honored, but the idea of "eating sputniks" is not. The "coupon system" is not achieved everywhere yet—it will be hard to get enough paper for the tens of billions of coupons—but the principle of strict accounting in food is established.

Public dining rooms survive. Honan claims that 99 per cent of its

peasants patronize the 320,000 public dining rooms of that province. Other provinces show a smaller percentage but few places show less than 90 per cent of the peasants using them. The convenience is great, not only in saving the women from household drudgery, but in saving the men from endless cutting of wood and hauling of water for private kitchen use. The only families now eating at home are those in which old people like to putter in kitchens, and in view of the crudeness of China's rural kitchens, these are few. Honan Province estimates that ten million of its farm women have been "freed from kitchen labor," and that 40 per cent of them now work in public welfare services, including nurseries, kindergartens and community dining rooms, the rest in agriculture.

China was tested by floods, drought and pests this past summer as it has not been for many decades. In some places this began even in the autumn of 1958. There were areas where no rain fell from before the sowing of winter wheat until when it was reaped in June. All this grain had to be watered; the crop secured was the highest the areas had ever had. This experience was only an isolated skirmish. In the summer of 1959, nearly 100,000,000 acres, one-third of all China's cultivated land, was attacked either by heavy floods or serious drought. The Peking area had summer rains which broke all the main railway lines around the capital, washing villages into the sea so that corpses appeared on the beach at Teitaho. Rainfall of 20 inches in one or two days was not uncommon. Typhoons swept the Chekiang coast and

brushed Shanghai. Canton was partly flooded by the highest waters of a century. Meantime the central wheat area of Honan and adjacent provinces had no rain for 69 days—a longer record than any drought for decades.

Yet today, as I write on the eve of October 1, which celebrates ten years of the New China, it is already clear that this year's total crop will surpass last year's, itself the highest by far in China's history.

This victory was due to the new form of organization expressed in the communes. A few examples will show how.

In South Honan is a county called Chang Ke, containing a commune of 80,000 people. The area now covered by the commune suffered drought in 1942, 1957 and during the summer of 1959. The commune has compiled comparative results.

The year 1942 is known to America as a war year with Japan. In China it is also known as a year when Chiang Kai-shek's soldiers ruthlessly ravaged and looted the drought-stricken peasants of Honan. The present commune in Chang Ke reports that the drought in its area in 1942 lasted forty days. All edible weeds and leaves from trees were eaten, roads were strewn with sick and fallen, and 11,000 refugees managed to flee. Of those unable to flee, 4,196 died of starvation. The number of daughters and sons sold as slaves reached 1,008 and—worse than individual death to the Chinese peasant—521 families died out entirely.

The 1957 drought was two days longer. The area had good farming cooperatives and had already done some water conservation work and

dug some wells. The cooperatives were small, averaging some 200 families, and equipment and funds were scanty. Nonetheless they managed to turn out 16,000 workers to fight the drought, and they watered 833 acres a day. All the land was watered once but this was not enough to beat the drought. The crop was poor and they ate some substitutes that winter but nobody died of hunger.

In the summer of 1959 the area was hit by a drought that lasted 69 days. No rain fell from June 12 to August 20 and the air was so hot and dry that any plant that lacked watering five days began to turn yellow. Many small ponds and lakes dried up and the water in the wells sank over six feet. This time they had a commune, and they put 43,000 people and 4,000 draft animals to work. They managed to water all their 21,666 acres of autumn crops four times. Some 2,000 of this was early corn and the crop proved 61 per cent higher than in 1958, previously the all-time record. More than 17,000 acres of later grain crops—wheat, millet, kaoliang and late corn—are yet to be harvested, but as they stand in the fields, the peasants estimate them at 20 to 30 per cent above last year's high record. It is not surprising that the members of this commune swear by their new organization, and look not back at the cooperatives but ahead to the expectation that before the next drought hits they will have mechanized irrigation with pumps.

The fight against flood was even more spectacular. Floods were especially bad in the Canton area. Here three rivers meet to form the Pearl River; torrential rains of ten

to twenty inches within one to three days poured down in the upper reaches of all of them. The East River crested 1.48 meters higher than ever recorded and broke its dykes. Following this, still higher crests appeared on both the West and North Rivers, and the two crests met above Canton and rushed into the Pearl River Delta to meet one of the highest sea-tides of the year on June 23.

The floods from all these crests affected 2,000,000 people, destroyed 200,000 buildings, inundated over 777,000 acres of rice and 180,000 of peanuts and industrial crops, and washed out a section of the Canton-Hongkong Railway, stopping traffic for sixteen days. Casualties were 187 killed, 29 missing, 204 injured.

Natural calamities far less than this have, in the past, left entire counties to linger in starvation. In this catastrophe the entire population of Canton and the surrounding peasant communes rallied and fought the rising flood around the clock. Thus Canton itself was saved from inundation, and so was much of the Pearl River Delta. Villages in the flood's path were evacuated by army boats and planes to hills where the members of their own or neighboring communes fed them, and helped them build emergency shelter. Relief from central and provincial governments was rushed in. Even the homeless flooded-out peasants were building and strengthening dykes to save other areas, or wading into the waters to jerk out cartloads of drowned rice, which yet might be used.

Flood areas were quickly drained and replanted under the slogan: "Bury the flood in the autumn har-

vest." Nobody expects Kwangtung Province to make excessive harvest records this year but nobody in Kwangtung admits that they can fall below last year's record crop. Meantime emergency housing has been put up, under government pledge to supply without charge all building materials for permanent housing after the autumn harvest. Canton meantime voted to send 180 tons of rice to Hongkong to relieve flood victims there.

These are but two examples of the way natural calamities are met by the local commune organization, backed by the aid of provincial and central governments of China.

When communes were launched in 1958 it was stated that they would not yet be organized in the cities. This principle is still true. But communes already begin to enter cities by the back door. Almost at once the suburban communes made contracts with municipalities to supply definite amounts of food and geared their production to the city's needs. In June 1959 this process took a big, decisive further step. A conference on city planning, held in Shanghai, adopted a policy by which all cities aim at "self-sufficiency with some outside aid." This is done by enlarging the city, taking in adjoining counties.

Shanghai, for instance, annexed several counties so that its population jumped from eight to ten million, giving it claim to being the world's biggest city. Its purpose, however, was not to outstrip Tokyo but to get food-producing areas. The communes in these areas became part of the metropolis, suppliers of vegetables from the nearer farms and grain from those more distant.

Shanghai takes cognizance of them in its city plans, and supplies them with loans, machines and volunteer workers at harvest.

Nearly a hundred years ago it was argued in Kropotkin's "Conquest of Bread" that Paris could feed itself by annexing its suburbs, and turning them into its food base. Nobody till now had tried the plan. If you ask: "What will Honan do with its wheat if Peking and Shanghai raise

their own?" the answer is clear: "Honan will grow corn, develop livestock, build industry and become more like a city. The city and the countryside will finally become one."

This is some distance ahead but already begins to seem an attainable goal. Meantime it is enough to note what economy in transport and what well-balanced living this new combination of communes and metropolis provides.

CHINA REVISITED

THE FUTURE is fast becoming the present in China, which we visited to share in the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary. Like fairy tales come true one sees the results of all the struggles and campaigns, the organization and mobilization of people to transform their living. Bumper harvests after drought, huge buildings raising within months, factory chimneys and motor transport in village as in city. As if reincarnated, we stood on the steep river steps to Chungking where once carriers groaned under loads. Now, all cargo is lifted by funicular railway, and it has white cars for passengers, with little golden dragons laughing at the corners. We rode down as in a dream. This is a future we had not dared to imagine when we lived there.

We take China's growing strength to be a bulwark for world peace. Looking back at the record of 1959, we find a bursting forth of ideas about neutral zones, the futility of defense in this age and the imperative need for talks. No nuclear testing this year. The world in protest against starting again in the Sahara. Among the dangerous unsolved problems is the increase in nuclear bases pointed at China from her neighbors in league with the United States. Till this problem is solved we cannot feel the future is secure and that our grandchildren will inherit a world at peace.

From a New Year's Letter from James and Mary Endicott, editors of The Canadian Far Eastern News Letter.

COMMITTEE OF THREE BILLION FOR CHINA

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES O. PORTER (D. Ore.) proposed that a Committee of Three Billion—the approximate population of the world—be set up to counter the propaganda of the China lobby which calls itself the Committee of One Million, in a speech before the San Francisco Area World Trade Association of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce on October 28, 1959. The Congressman said:

"It would be most appropriate if a nation-wide action committee was started here today by this association, a committee that would consolidate the great forces of public opinion which today in the United States demand new and more appropriate policies with respect to China. I am certain such an effort would achieve overwhelming support, support which could not be ignored by the administration."

The Dispatcher, November 6, 1959. (Official newspaper of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.)

Impressions of Hungary

by ARTHUR D. KAHN

I HAVE been six months in Eastern Europe gathering material for a book on the problems of building socialism and of peaceful coexistence. So far I have visited Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania and I have just completed five weeks in Hungary.

In each country I have tried to find the particular theme about which my investigation should revolve. I knew my task before I arrived in Hungary. The attitude of Americans towards this country is still conditioned by the upheaval of October 1956. Even for those who were open-minded and anxious to understand, the developments leading to the counter-revolution have never been convincingly explained.

I soon discovered in speaking with people in Hungary how difficult it is for an American to appreciate the complex historical and psychological factors deriving from a history completely different from our own. Even words have different meanings, and I frequently had to ask for examples so that I could understand exactly what some terms meant.

My choice of the counter-revolution as the center of my study of Hungary was not incorrect. It is clear that the crisis in 1956 had

reached into every facet of life. All the contradictions had been exposed. In the period of reconstruction, after the counter-revolution, a vast change began that continues today.

The Hungarian Communists carried on discussions during the entire year following the counter-revolution about the causes of the events. It was generally agreed that they were four in number, and indeed in his speech at the recent Party Congress, Janos Kadar listed them in the order in which they are usually presented: the errors committed by Rakosi, including misjudgment of national economic needs and violations of socialist legality; the treason in high places, especially within the Government itself; the activity of the former landowners and capitalists; and finally, the international intervention.

At present a number of the leading Communists who had been tortured under the Rakosi regime hold high places in the government, including, of course, Kadar himself.

The errors of the Rakosi regime were apparently so basic that it is clear to me from my investigations that a large portion of the population was at best indifferent to the armed coup against the regime—at least at the commencement of the upheaval. Thus it was necessary to investigate and re-evaluate methods and approaches in every area of life.

This, I am convinced, the Hungarian people have done.

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In every country I visit I try to sense the prevailing atmosphere. In Hungary, I would define the atmosphere as one of quiet confidence. I have been assured that this is new. "A stiffness has disappeared from our life," a municipal official told me. "There is a new spirit of patience and calm," a clergyman assured me.

I experienced this calm patience. I pressed innumerable people with probing questions, many of which would certainly have been considered embarrassing years ago. In every case, the answers were given patiently, thoughtfully and without any resentment.

Most impressive was the general spirit of constructive criticism, frankness and modesty. When I remarked on this fact, an educator commented, "We are frank and critical today because we are determined not to repeat what happened in 1956, and we are modest because we still have much to do."

There is a calm confidence, too, in the rejection of mechanical approaches to problems. I was surprised to discover at a cooperative village that the priest and the two school teachers who had been among the local leaders of the counter-revolution had been pardoned and are at their old posts. I also spoke with several dissidents (among the 42,000 who have returned from foreign countries). None of them had experienced any unpleasantness when they came back to Hungary. They are working and seem to be among the best propagandists for the regime and for socialism. Of those whom I interviewed, only one, an officer who had deserted his command, had been punished with two years imprison-

ment. This seemed to me a most lenient sentence, and he had been amnestied after fourteen months.

When I asked why the universities had not been opened for several months after the counter-revolution, I was told that the students needed an opportunity to think and to discuss so as to return to their studies with clear minds. Certainly a much more reasonable approach than a quick reopening accompanied by mass expulsions.

Similarly, I was impressed by the delay in the reorganization of the writers' union, which was re-formed only a few weeks ago. The writers, too, had needed time to think. Besides, with the general advance in the country, the trend of developments now has become clearer to them. The leadership of the new union includes writers who before 1956 had been out of favor and in some cases had not even been able to publish their works.

Another characteristic of Hungarian life today is the willingness and even eagerness to discuss various points of view. "We no longer consider it necessary to agree with what we publish," an editor of a literary magazine told me. "It is important to publish all kinds of opinion except the openly hostile so that we can pit our ideology against others in public debate." A leading playwright assured me that now "there are no longer delicate questions in Hungarian literature. The Party urges everyone to care so much for socialism as to fight openly against our weaknesses."

In the theater I saw plays treating contemporary Hungarian problems with remarkable frankness. I was as much impressed by the vig-

orous reactions of the audiences as by what occurred on stage. "People say that they can hardly believe such criticism possible in our theaters," a producer said proudly.

The new breadth of vision extends to books and plays from the West. In Budapest one finds Western plays presenting ideologies and treating social problems that would not have been permitted a few years ago. The interest in life outside the socialist countries is keen. I was bombarded with questions about America. A group of steelworkers at Stalinvares, for example, were eager for information about the recent steel strike in the United States. "When you go home, tell the American steelworkers that we are following their struggles and that we wish them well." The university students I spoke to wanted to know about the life of our students; the writers, about the writers; the actors, about the actors.

Everyone, of course, wanted to know about the peace sentiment of the American people. When I convinced people of my own purpose for peace, I enjoyed even more than the traditional Hungarian hospitality. In the cooperative town of Mezeetur, I became a kind of "honorary citizen"! In the exuberance of my visit there, I made the foolish mistake of challenging my hosts in drinking. And when we had to leave, the leaders of the cooperative tried to detain us with the delightful ruse of faking a message that because of an epidemic no one was to depart from the town!

Of course, I would be asked in the West what guarantee there is of the continuation of the new unmechanical approach to the building of socialism in Hungary. A

Lutheran bishop was reassuring. "Before," he said, "the members of the government were aloof and distant. Now they mingle with the people and are genuinely interested even in the smallest problems and in what the people are thinking."

The people in general are, I believe, confident in their future. The growing prosperity of the nation is apparent. There is no danger of repeating the past error of retarding the advance of the living standards. "Before 1956," the deputy chairman of the municipal council of Stalinvares told me, "we did not realize that in constructing socialism we must not think merely of the welfare of our grandchildren but also of our own. We have learned this lesson." Indeed today the Hungarians are well-dressed. There is plenty of goods in the shops. If anything, they eat too much. Everywhere I have seen new flats under construction.

But perhaps the greatest guarantee for the future lies in the change in the people themselves. "Hungarian peasants no longer bow and raise their hats when an automobile passes," said a government official. "Now they will boldly walk up to a government leader, shake hands and introduce themselves as equals."

According to the director of the Children's Village at Fot, a newly constructed settlement for orphans and neglected children, the sufferings of the counter-revolution roused the conscience of the Hungarian people. During the years of fascism and war, many Hungarians had become callous to suffering. The Children's Village is a manifestation of the new compassion in the nation, the result of a great national volun-

KHRUSHCHEV ON THE HUNGARIAN UPRISING

IT IS CLEAR that if the counter-revolution did succeed in causing disturbances in the country, if only for a short time, this was due to a considerable extent to the fact that the former leadership of the Hungarian Workers' Party, and especially Matyas Rakosi, had committed serious mistakes which undermined the Party's directing role and weakened the dictatorship of the proletariat.

If the people entrust the leadership of the country to a party, this not only does not relieve its leaders of concern for strengthening their ties with the masses but, on the contrary, obliges them to be especially sensitive to the requirements of the masses and constantly to verify by their experience the correctness of the party's policy.

The former leaders of the Hungarian Workers' Party regarded this confidence in them as something of a mandate for independence from the Party and the non-party masses, they took it into their heads that they could do no wrong, that anything was permitted them, and that they could disregard the objective conditions and the opinions of the working people. . . .

The historic merit of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and its leadership is, above all, that they boldly took to the road of resolutely correcting the mistakes committed by the old leadership. . . .

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the first to give an example of boldly and sharply denouncing the mistakes produced by the cult of the personality. And it was right, even though some people have said that certain complications in the public life of the socialist countries stem from the Twentieth Congress of our Party, that the question should not have been raised so sharply.

No comrades, it had to be done. It was necessary to be cleaned and to throw off all the accumulated extraneous matter. Just as an artist sometimes has to remove the grime on a painting to restore its colors to their original glory, so we had to clean up some things to show the real face of creative Marxism-Leninism.

From a speech delivered at the 7th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, December 1, 1959.

tary effort by individuals, the trade unions, the women's councils, the youth and the Red Cross.

There are aspects of Hungarian life that I do not like, holdovers from the distant and the recent past, but these are not decisive and are clearly on their way out. It does seem to me, for example, that the appalling amount of tipping ought not to be continued in a country seeking to build socialism. I believe, too, that the openness to different ideas one experiences in the theater ought to be copied by the architects. I did not see a single handsome modern building anywhere in Hungary.

The change in the atmosphere in Hungary and the new approach and style in building socialism depend upon the continued relaxation of international tension, but also contribute to the relaxation.

"It is my conviction," a leader of the Patriotic Front said to me, "that Hungary must build socialism in a spirit of humanism."

I believe that Hungary is on the road, and I am convinced that well-meaning people in the West would follow the building of socialism in Hungary with sympathy and interest if they were better informed about this country.

CARE AND TREATMENT OF EYES IN THE USSR

by DR. EUGENE EAGLE

THE great French plane, carrying forty Americans, touched down in the wide flat expanse of Moscow airport. The winter sun hung briefly above the horizon. The air was sharp and clear, and was to remain so for my twelve-day visit.

Clearing customs was a matter of moments. Not knowing whether tips were customary; and, in any case, not having any Russian money, I decided to give the porter several picture postcards of San Francisco. I had brought 500 of these cards, showing various scenes of my home city, for exchange with the youngsters. Now, in a matter of seconds, I was surrounded by every porter and taxi driver at the terminal—all seeking them. In the days to come, the distribution of these postcards to the children was to give me much joy. Thus, in my own way, a little good will toward our country was left behind!

The twenty-five kilometers to Moscow was made at dusk. The snow-covered fields hugging the road, and growths of trees similar to our silver birch were a pretty, though bleak, sight. Upon reaching the city, one sees first the great new housing developments which extend for many miles. The driver informed

me that six years ago a great deal of this land was swamp.

As soon as breakfast was over the next morning, I was waiting at the Intourist desk not only for coupons, but to enlist their help in contacting the Ministry of Health. The people at Intourist were most helpful in arranging appointments, transportation, tickets for the theater and ballet, etc., etc. By 10:30 in the morning the day after I arrived I had an appointment with the Foreign Bureau of the Ministry of Health; by noon of the same day I was closeted with an English-speaking member of the Bureau. Soon an ophthalmologist was called in, and she was given the task of arranging my itinerary.

When the opportunity first arose to go to Europe, I immediately decided to investigate the status of eye care in several countries. The problem is three-fold. First, what is the potential level of care—that is, what is the state of knowledge and education. Second, how are the latest techniques transmitted to the men in the field. Third, what is the actual level of care and within what limits does it range for different segments of the population.

As regards the latter point, it is well known that the level of care in our country varies within wide limits. The best care is reserved for those who can avail themselves of the Walter Reed hospital, namely Generals and Congressmen. Those

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who can obtain care at the Mayo Clinic also fare very well. From here it varies through all levels of private, hospital and clinic care. There is a wide range of medical care varying from excellent to poor depending on the economic and geographic factors as well as the educational standards of the medical profession.

Inquiry on this point in the Soviet Union revealed a somewhat similar situation. Whether or not the spread is as wide there as it is here could not be ascertained. The system of medicine both from the point of view of teaching and distribution, however, is one which guarantees a wider and quicker spread of the best care and the latest techniques. New graduates are sent to areas most in need of physicians. The main point is that in the USSR all medical care is free.

The National Health Plan in England provides for bringing men in the field up to date in new techniques. Thus institutes are held at which some three hundred optometrists are in attendance. The travel and living expenses are borne by the government. London has a refraction hospital manned by paid and volunteer help of the highest and most devoted character.

In France the Social Security Administration maintains a consulting clinic. Physicians or optometrists may send their baffling cases to this clinic. Here again, the clinic is manned by the most devoted and talented men.

At the present time physicians in the Soviet Union receive six years of training. After working in the field for as little as two years, he or she (many are women) may elect to

receive further training. In any case, after three years the physicians are given leave to take refresher courses. At the end of five years they are given six months of courses and further training.

From the point of view of the recipients the picture is as follows: first of all they are certain that no monetary obstacles stand between them and good care. They have the utmost faith that the physician has the patient's best interest at heart. Soviet medicine emphasizes early diagnosis and prevention of disease. More consideration, love and concern can not be bestowed on the ill or those in need of care and prosthetics than is shown in Soviet hospitals. The Soviet physicians are sorry for Americans who still live under a system where medical care has to be bought and paid for by the individual!

Every Soviet citizen is enrolled in a particular hospital either through his place of employment or on a geographical basis. He is entitled to unlimited free medical care; but may, and sometimes does, call upon a physician privately in minor or exceptional circumstances. Payment for private care is extremely low compared with such care in the United States.

Early in the morning of the second day I was on my way to the Helmholtz Eye Research Institute. Here I was to spend part of each day, with the exception of Sunday, for the rest of my stay in Moscow. The courteous and time-consuming reception given me is still a source of wonderment.

The Institute consists of three buildings four stories high. It is a referral hospital in addition to serv-

ing its own area. Patients are referred to it from other clinics and hospitals. It comprises the following departments: Outpatient and ambulatory, Refraction, Surgical, divided into several specialties (i.e., glaucoma, detached retina, foreign bodies, injuries, cataract), Pathology, Strabismus, Subnormal vision, and Contact lenses.

In addition to treating patients, research work is performed here. This work is both of immediate clinical application and also that which is more theoretical, for example work on certain physiological aspects of color vision. Among the outstanding achievements of Soviet medicine is the process of using loss of color vision for the early detection of many eye diseases. Prof. Rabkin is the outstanding world authority in this field. He has developed a special instrument for differentiating various eye diseases. This instrument was on display at the recent Soviet Fair in New York. In addition, Soviet medical workers have elaborated more accurate techniques for the measurement of intra-ocular pressure. This is useful in the control of glaucoma.

Patients who are to undergo certain types of operations are hospitalized for as much as two weeks prior to the surgery. During this time they are treated by breathing high concentrations of oxygen several times a day. The results are said to be superior.

Furthermore, the hospital was in the process of developing a cinematic major amblyoscope for the treatment of cross-eyedness and similar types of disorders. The work in this field, which is equivalent to the best work done in the United

States, is under the capable guidance of Prof. Eugene Belostosky. By the way, I was interested to note that since the majority of the patients here are children, the reception room was adorned with the famous statue of Stalin holding a child.

They were just beginning the production of phoropters, an advanced compact instrument used in eye refraction; and they already had in production a beautiful and elaborate biomicroscope. The latter is an extremely useful instrument in the diagnosis of eye diseases and in fitting contact lenses. Plans seem to call for expansion of contact lens work, including a very large plant for their manufacture. Contact lenses are now being fitted in seven major cities. The quality and design of eye glass frames are improving.

In the field of refraction and in the manufacture of bifocals, as well as cylindrical corrections, the Soviet Union lags behind the U.S. and even a number of European countries. This must be assessed historically. England and Holland, being naval powers, developed the science of optics early for use at sea as well as in astronomy. This science entered France through Huyghens and Italy through Galileo. The development of optics in England led to the Spectacle Grinders' Guild in the 17th century. The U.S. was heir to this tradition. A group of men, known in England as ophthalmic opticians and in the U.S. as optometrists, began to specialize in the non-pathological disorders of the eyes. This specialization, together with the setting up of educational standards, allowed great strides to be made in this field.

In the Soviet Union, because the change from an agricultural economy (where the demand for glasses is not so great) to an industrial economy is quite recent, and because of the more urgent demands of other goods sectors, the need and development of spectacle grinding has lagged. It is, of course, true that the production in this area is far in advance of what it was under the Tsars; nevertheless it is also true that it does not meet the demands of the people today.

In summary, Soviet medicine in the field of eye care displays on the one hand some outstanding achievements; and on the other, certain shortcomings which it is to be hoped that the ensuing years will rapidly correct.

Some tentative conclusions about a people can be drawn even in so short a time as twelve days. This is particularly so when the same phenomena occur repeatedly, and when they are borne out by other observations. In the thirties it was fashionable for well meaning Americans to refer to the Russian Revolution as an experiment. With good reason this phrase is no longer heard. The "experiment" is now an achievement of the most stupendous proportions.

Just as it was beyond the comprehension of the majority of the people in the 16th and 17th centuries to grasp the notion that the sun did not revolve around the earth, so today it is difficult to grasp the idea that it is possible to create a man who is trustful not distrustful, honest not devious, generous not petty, kind not violent, considerate not selfish, proud not haughty, con-

fident not fearful, dignified and respectful of the rights of others, neither a lackey nor disdainful.

The foreign policy of the Soviet Union, while based on the development of a socialist economy, and motivated by a knowledge of the sufferings of war and the need for peace, is also a reflection of the new man being built in the country. That is, having all but eliminated policemen inside the country, they believe it possible to eliminate armaments and armies. Since they are on the way to international brotherhood for the nations inside the Soviet Union, they feel this can be extended to all nations. Since they can foresee abundance for their own people and since their own people in the main lack the vices of covetousness and jealousy, they can foresee the end of imperialism and abundance for all.

I left Moscow for Paris in a Soviet jet.

Aboard the jet were more than forty Soviet scientists, engineers and technicians. Twenty-two of the scientists were going to Dakar to attend a conference of scientists; and, I have no doubt, to read papers which were particularly germane to the development of Africa. The others, too, were going to other parts of Africa to help set up radio and television stations and, in general, lend a helping hand to people more backward than themselves. I thought how wonderful it is that these people who, by their own standards, are far from affluent, are nevertheless unselfishly depriving themselves to help others worse off.

We can wish these people well, for they wish no one ill.

The Great Dam at Bratsk

by ARCHIE JOHNSTONE

BRATSK is 300 miles north-by-west of Irkutsk as the crow flies, or 450 miles as the river Angara wanders. By plane it takes 1½ hours; by paddle-steamer it takes two days downstream and three days upstream. If you happen to be one of the thousands of overseas visitors who are expected to make the journey in the next year or two, I advise you to take the longer journey.

And the sooner you go the better, for in the next half-dozen years the new Bratsk Sea, into which the Angara will merge, will rise as much as 30 feet and will cut off from view the lower band of the two magnificent panoramas—one to port, one to starboard—which flow past you on this river trip.

However, above this level there will remain almost a surfeit of scenery—tree-clad mountains that begin their incredible display of autumnal tints in mid-August and towering cliffs, some of them a rich brick-red, others apparently hewn out of solid chocolate, both plain and milk.

The steamer takes you only as far as the old town of Bratsk (soon to be submerged), but there are still

some hardy locals who shoot the rapids between that point and the dam site, 25 miles downstream.

It was these notorious rapids ("The Drunk," "The Hair-of-the-Dog-That-Bit-You" and "The Stumbler") and the almost suicidally perilous profession of rapids-shooting that brought Bratsk into being in the heart of a wild forest region which until recently had a population density of one-tenth of a human being to the square mile. Rails for the Trans-Siberian Railway, train-ferries and icebreakers for Lake Baikal (built in Britain and sent via the Arctic Sea and the river Yenisei) had to be navigated, or freighted in sections, through these rapids by row-boats or in ships that pulled themselves against the current by means of cables or chains made fast to rocks on the bank.

Today the area bristles with a weird and wonderful assortment of modern machinery. The construction of the dam alone employs 14,500 workers. In about ten years Bratsk will have a population of a quarter of a million and the far-spreading power lines of the dam (with a staff of only 300) will serve new industries employing ten million workers.

My first glimpse of the Bratsk dam was breath-taking. As I stepped from tie to tie of a crane's runway that projects out over the gorge at cliff-top level I could see, actu-

ARCHIE JOHNSTONE, former editor of the British Embassy newspaper in Moscow, has lived in the USSR since 1947, and now writes for a number of publications in Britain and the U.S. "Ivan the Not-So-Terrible," a collection of his articles, was published in 1958. The present article is the second in a series on Siberia.

ally between my feet, ant-sized figures working on the dam 250 feet below. Other wearers of bifocal spectacles, even if they have a good head for heights, will know how I felt.

This crane itself is one of the wonders of Bratsk—and, for all I know one of the wonders of the world. It weighs 450 tons, has a base 110 yards long, runs on rails 21 yards apart, and with its 30-yard jib carrying before it bridge sections weighing up to 80 tons, is literally laying its own track across the gorge at cliff-top level. This steel structure will have roads and railways running through it at lower levels and will remain as the steel skeleton of the great concrete dam.

At present the masonry of the dam showing above water is the height of only a five- or six-story building, but it gives you, in cross-section, the shape of things to come. In mid-river, and with its streamlined "prow" apparently fighting its way upstream against the swift current, is a ship-shaped mass of steel and concrete which divides the twenty turbine units from the spillway and ship-lift site.

When completed the dam will be just under 400 feet high—about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the height of the Niagara Falls. But that is only one of many reasons why, in the words of its chief builder, Aron Ghindin (who has quite a grasp of idiomatic English), "This dam is pure jam for us hydro-power engineers." Here are some of the other reasons:

- Apart from the 350-mile-long man-made Bratsk Sea (three times bigger in volume than its nearest rival, the Kuibyshev Sea), Bratsk has the natural reservoir of Lake Baikal

whose 4,600 *cubic miles* of water makes it greater in volume than the shallow Baltic Sea, despite the Baltic's much greater splash on the map!

- This ensures from season to season and year to year a flow of water (and power) of an evenness many times greater than in any large river of the world. The difference between maximum and minimum flow is only 5 to 1 whereas differences up to 100 to 1 are quite normal. For this reason Bratsk, although it will eventually be beaten in peak power by the Krasnoyarsk dam on the Yenisei, will remain for long and by a wide margin the most powerful dam in the world in the vitally important dimension of "guaranteed minimum."

- The two almost sheer sides of the half-mile-wide gorge and the dam's natural foundation to a depth of at least 150 feet are of solid granite.

- The surrounding area is extremely rich in deposits of iron and many non-ferrous metals, timber and other raw materials for power-consuming industries. Korshun, one of 22 iron-ore areas, will produce more than Magnitogorsk and Blagodatsk combined, and will eventually provide the basis for a complex of metallurgical and engineering industries greater than any now existing in Europe. A timber combine at Bratsk, with its scores of side-lines in chemicals and synthetic materials, will employ 12,000 workers. (Even today practically all Britain's imports of Soviet timber come from this Irkutsk region—Siberian pine, whose trunks are as straight as masts and have no branches until they reach their tufty crowns).

• Bratsk's $4\frac{1}{2}$ million kilowatt output (25,000 million k.w.h. per annum—the power equivalent of twenty million tons of coal) will cost only $\frac{1}{3}$ kopek per k.w.h. to produce, not the half-kopek estimated earlier. That is about a quarter of the cost of electricity from its nearest rival in the Soviet Union at present, and, I imagine, the world's cheapest by a wide margin—20 hours of light from a 50-watt bulb, or $1\frac{1}{3}$ hours of one horsepower at the cost of one-thirtieth of one cigaret!

In four or five years of operation Bratsk will clear off all construction costs plus full compensation to the 70,000 persons "displaced" by the Bratsk Sea and the expense of clearing the sea's bed of even the stumps of trees. The neglect of this last precaution—for decaying stumps pollute the fishing grounds and when they float free they become hazards to navigation and pile up in the flotsam traps of a dam—caused heavy damage in some earlier projects both in the USSR and U.S.A. In contrast to the Volga dams, which have adversely affected the fishing both in the river and in the Caspian Sea, it is confidently predicted that the Bratsk Sea will increase tenfold the Angara's fish supply.

Some of these costs will be offset by the value of the 50 million cubic yards of timber now being felled in the area to be submerged, but around here you will seldom meet a power-engineer—or a farmer or a fisherman—who has a kind word to say about this superabundance of forest lands. The Irkutsk administrative region, equal in area to $3\frac{1}{2}$ Great Britains, can cope with only a third of the forests' annual growth.

The rest goes to waste—or worse, for uncleared forest helps to breed, among other evils, the notorious Siberian midge.

The Siberian midge, in the singular, is only a nuisance compared with the malarial mosquito that held up the building of the Panama Canal, but in its millions of millions it added thousands of man-hours to the building of the Bratsk dam in its first stages. Now the dam area is completely and finally midgeless, but outlying parts are still being sprayed from aeroplanes, road vehicles and river craft and farther afield you have to wear veils over your face not just to save you from bites but to avoid breathing in lungfuls of these little pests. Fortunately they can live only in damp, sunless and windless places and these places are rapidly disappearing.

The freakish formation of ice in the Bratsk narrows was another great hazard for the dam-builders in their first two winters. Here, normally, the current is so swift that the ice cannot form first on the surface, but in the depths where the flow is slower. The ice is for a time a semi-fluid—and still moving—mass of mush; then it solidifies in the deepest pockets of the river bed. This creates a rapidly-moving mass of spongy ice which, while reducing the river's flow, can raise its level as much as 25 feet in a matter of hours, and the icepacks form quite sizable hills where there is any obstruction—such as a dam!

The greater depth of the river above the dam has ended this hazard—but newcomers to the building team tell me that they have to listen to endless stories from the old hands who fought this ice-invasion with all

kinds of weapons, including sticks of dynamite pitched overboard from helicopters.

Although Bratsk is, in its own right, one of the wonders of the century, it is only one unit of the Angara cascade and one link in a curious chain-reaction of electrical give-and-take. In construction it is a prodigious consumer of electricity from the first Angara dam, at Irkutsk, which sends its power over a new 375-mile line cutting through mountain forests which not even the Buryat hunters of Irkutia had explored. In production Bratsk will supply the power for the building of the Ust-Ilim station 150 miles down river, and Ust-Ilim will eventually perform the same service for

Boguchan, another 255 miles down river.

The whole cascade will produce seventy thousand million kilowatt-hours a year—more than three times the amount produced in the *whole of the USSR* in 1955, and 1,800 times Russia's peak figure in Tsarist times.

Or, to put it in a more picturable form: A famous painting by Repin, inspired, possibly, by the even more famous "Song of the Volga Boatmen," shows a team of eleven men straining on a rope that pulls a small barge.

But it would require a picture of 620 million men straining on a rope to illustrate the strength of the Angara dams!

A LEGEND FOR TOMORROW

by Tsiren-Bazar Badmayev

(Tsiren-Bazar Badmayev is a Buryat-Mongolian whose homeland borders on Lake Baikal. This poem was written in honor of the completion of the Bratsk Dam. The translation is by Archie Johnstone.)

As you look down from Pursei's gale-swept height
It seems that the Angara, swift and deep,
Has curbed her speed, restrained her flowing might,
To gather strength for some colossal leap.

'Tis not for timid eyes, this cliff-face sheer;
But those who with the dauntless eagles soar
Can see outspread the changes coming here—
For here the Sea of Bratsk will have its shore.

When Baikal like a sleeping giant stirs,
Expands his shoulders, loosing all his force,
Where once we saw the taiga's pines and firs
Proud ships from distant parts will steer their course.

So from a grandsire's ancient minstrel lay
A legend-worthy measure let me borrow;
For all that we are building here today
Will build a legend for our sons tomorrow.

I'll sing of how I saw the valleys broad
Dissolve from view as Baikal's waters spilled,
Of paths—now fathoms deep—that once I trod,
Of how I saw Tomorrow's builders build.

Music in Moscow

by RALPH PARKER

THE 1959-1960 musical season in Moscow has, up to the present, been particularly interesting. A Bolshoy Theater production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, a new violincello concerto by Shostakovich, concerts by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and by the best Czechoslovak and Polish orchestras, three extremely successful recitals by Mattiwilda Dobbs, a Henry Purcell festival, the Berlin Komische Opera season, outstanding recitals by Leonid Kogan, Emil Gilels, Zara Dolukhanova and other artists who have become well-known in the United States, these are but a few of the treats that the season has served us with so far.

The American orchestra's visit was highly successful and gave Moscow musical critics, both professional and amateur, much to argue about. Most agreed that Leonard Bernstein's interpretation and the orchestra's execution of the Shostakovich Fifth revealed new, exciting aspects of this work, already a twentieth century classic. But these concerts were well covered by the American press and there is nothing I can add except to say, in passing, that the current musical season has not borne out Bernstein's assumption that Igor Stravinsky was little known in

Russia: Nathan Rakhlin has conducted the *Petrushka* suite, the Rudolph Barshai string orchestra has played the *Dumbarton Oaks* suite, the ballet music for *Apollon Musagates* has been performed and Dolukhanova has included many Stravinsky songs and arias in recent programs.

The Warsaw Philharmonic orchestra, whose reputation stood high in Moscow as the result of reports brought back by Russians who attended the Warsaw autumn festival, surpassed all expectations particularly in its rendering of Polish music (Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater* for chorus, orchestra and soloists, and this composer's colorful and mystical Third Symphony being outstanding.) Witold Rovitsky, the orchestra's principal conductor deserves to rank among the best young conductors in Europe today.

The new director general of the Bolshoy Theater has found his first year in command fraught with grave administrative problems. The Bolshoy's second stage, the Filial, after fighting a losing battle for two or three years with the fire department, has had to close its doors for capital repairs and reconstruction. The raising of funds for the rebuilding presents no great problem: the Ministry of Culture will look after that. But the receipts from the Filial, where most of the popular Italian operas were played, made a sizable contribution to the Bolshoy's revenue. For two years, perhaps longer, the

RALPH PARKER, our Moscow correspondent, has lived in the USSR for almost two decades. He is also Moscow correspondent for the British weekly *New Statesman*, *The Times of India*, and other publications.

Bolshoy will have to maintain an inflated number of musicians, singers and dancers, apart from the technical personnel. True, some ten of the operas in the repertoire of the Filial will be transferred to the main stage and it seems probable that as a result the Bolshoy will play Monday (at present the free day) and put on extra matinees—something which will please tourists. Some members of the company will be "lent" to other theaters, one or two productions may go on protracted provincial tours, and there will no doubt be a stricter application of the administration's right to retire aging singers and dancers (they qualify for equivalent to 50 per cent of their last year's wages after being in the company for 20 years).

Despite its preoccupation with such problems, however, the Bolshoy succeeded in presenting its new production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* on schedule. This is the fourth production in the Soviet Union of the final version of the opera "after Tolstoy" completed by the composer shortly before his death, though it had its inception in the darkest days of the war. The critics are as one in their praise of the conductor Alexander Melik-Pashayev, of the expressive acting of that fine bass Krivchenia who sings the part of Kutuzov and of the masterly handling of the crowd scenes (at Borodino in the streets of burning Moscow) by Boris Pokrovsky, who, incidentally, produced the USSR Festival of Song and Dance at Madison Square Garden last summer.

It is specially pleasant to note the success of two of the younger singers of the Bolshoy company in the leading roles of Andrei Bolkonsky

and Natasha Rostova. Yevgeni Kibkalo, the young Ukrainian baritone, was heard only too briefly by Americans last summer when he participated in the Festival, but his is the voice that sings Onegin in the filmed version of the Tchaikovsky opera now available. Galina Vishnevskaya, Tatiana in that film, dominated the first "peace" half of Prokofiev's opera. In a brief span of time we see her as the girl so full of vitality and impetuosity standing on the threshold of life, we watch her timid entrance at her first ball, the birth of love, her clash with rigid convention in the person of old Bolkonsky, her shock at the unmasking of Kuragin's perfidy, her despair. Vishnevskaya sings her way through all these dramatic moments with amazing conviction and artistry. Those who are fortunate enough to hear her rendering of Tatiana's Letter Song and Lisa's Song in the Tchaikovsky Festival, will learn the power and range of her voice, but it is on the stage that this singer should be heard.

Incidentally, before the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra left for the United States and Canada it played its entire American program in the form of a cycle of concerts at the Kremlin, the Assembly Hall of Moscow University, and the Big Hall of Moscow Conservatory. This practice of performing to the Soviet public before or after a foreign tour has become practically a convention now, and it gives people the pleasant feeling of, in some way, participating in the tour. Many a Muscovite who reads in his newspaper of the outstanding success of a Gilels recital in New York or of the keen demand for expensive tickets for a

Tchaikovsky concert can recall with satisfaction that he heard those concerts—and for about a quarter of the price, for concert-going is cheap in Moscow.

Incidentally, the relative cheapness of music in Moscow poses certain problems to the organizers of international cultural exchanges. The total box-office capacity of the largest Moscow concert halls is not much more than a thousand dollars, reckoning the ruble at the 10 to 1 rate. On this basis it is clearly impossible for the Russians to offer visiting artists from America the fees they usually command in a country where tickets are far more expensive and halls generally more capacious. Even by raising prices for concerts by foreign artists by as much as 100 per cent, the Russian authorities are likely to lose money. Yet they do not feel they can fairly ask the public to pay the equivalent of the high prices charged for world celebrity concerts abroad, and the highest they have gone is 60 rubles (\$6.00) for a seat in the stalls for a Mario del Monaco performance in *Carmen*, and 40 rubles (\$4.00) for a ticket to a recital by Isaac Stern. But as a rule one can hear Gilels or David Oistrakh or Sviatislav Richter for less than two dollars best seats, and for 40 cents in the top gallery.

I first heard the new Shostakovich 'cello concerto in the small basement concert room in the building occupied by the Union of Composers. It is in this room that most of the works of Soviet composers, which have since become well known, were first submitted to the critical judgment of fellow musicians and critics. No one interferes with a So-

viet artist during the process of creation but he is generally the first to welcome the opportunity of presenting his finished work to his colleagues, and, if he agrees after hearing their views, of revising his work in the light of criticism.

It was an exciting experience to be hearing a first performance of a new work by a great composer, performed by Mstislav Rostropovich for whom it was written, only a few weeks before it was going to be revealed to an American audience in Philadelphia; to be hearing it too in the company of Moscow's musical elite, in the presence of the composer. Applause from such a body of listeners would, one felt, be hard won, but the applause was loud and prolonged and the whole work had to be repeated before the discussion, purely informal, began. A week or two later Rostropovich gave the work its first public performance in Leningrad, with Mravinsky conducting the orchestra. By tradition, Shostakovich always gives Mravinsky an option on the first performance of his new works.

To date, the cello concerto is the most outstanding new contribution to the concert repertoire that this season has made. After it I would place a new cantata by Georgi Sviridov, a pupil of Shostakovich, though belonging to the same generation, with many of Mayakovsky's best known revolutionary poems as text. Sviridov has already won fame by his *Robert Burns* and *Sergei Yesenin* cantatas.

The current season is marked by great variety. At present, musical taste is for Bach, Italian Baroque music, Prokofiev and Stravinsky. Even when famous soloists are per-

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forming, the concerts where works of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov are played are attended mainly by a "popular" public; altogether different in composition than the public you will find at a performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* by Professor Sveshnikov's choristers, those remarkable children who will one day take the world by storm; or listening to Purcell and Hindemith performed by the suave string players led by Rudolph Barshai; or to the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra

playing Vivaldi and Mozart, or the Radio Choir singing a Bach *Magnificat* or Galina Vishnevskaya singing Villa-Lobos to the accompaniment of eight violoncellos led by her husband Rostropovich.

A serious effort is being made to study and perform contemporary American music and if present programs are fulfilled I am sure that by the end of this season more American music (excluding jazz) will have been played in Moscow than anywhere else outside the United States.

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PAUL HENRY LANG, *New York Herald-Tribune*, January 4

"Emil Gilels, the soloist for the evening, was in grand form. His technical command was as sure as ever. There were fire and brilliance in the bravura passages. In the slow movement he played with a delicacy and penetration that were enormously affecting."

HOWARD TAUBMAN, *New York Times*, January 4

"Galina Vishnevskaya proved to be a fascinating combination of brains, beauty and temperament. She possesses a voice of rare expressiveness rather than rare timber. She sings utterly without affectation and her spontaneous surge of feeling is tempered by a discipline which only the best musicians demonstrate. It is the kind that leads the finest talents to find their own individual freedom, which this young artist has successfully achieved."

HARRIET JOHNSON, *New York Post*, January 7

"Those who had heard Mr. Kondrashin conduct Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov before recognized at once the master hand of an interpreter of dynamic force and broad poetic expressiveness. Tchaikovsky is obviously a specialty of his—over and beyond the call of national duty. Both the concentration on detail and the flair for sweeping drama were the mark of genuine dedication."

LOUIS BIANCOLLI, *New York World-Telegram*, January 7

"At thirty-six, Daniel Shafran, the cellist, is distinctly one of the brighter spirits functioning in the world of strings. . . . The Moscow State Symphony deals far more decorously with Tchaikovsky than our own ensembles. They read him straight, as it were, play the notes and let the expressivity take care of itself."

JAY S. HARRISON, *New York Herald-Tribune*, January 9

When a Person is in Trouble

IN THE Moscow *Izvestia* of August 28, the following story appeared, written by its correspondent in Omsk, Y. Dementyeva.

"The two pages, covered with uneven writing, brought a deep furrow to Vera Ivanovna's brow. She read through the letter once again, and then started hastily preparing to go out. There was much that was not clear in the letter, written by a very troubled person. Vera Ivanovna Levina, a Deputy to the District Soviet, had no idea how she might help, but only felt that here was a person in trouble, and she had to see what could be done. Leaving a note for her daughter, who was at music school, she set off for the address in the letter.

"The story she heard turned out to be a sad and unpleasant one. Galina Beschastnykh, a trained nurse, had been the director of the day nurseries of the district. She had kept a thousand rubles of the nurseries' funds entrusted to her, at home. Then she became ill, and while she was in the hospital, her husband had squandered the money. The deficit was discovered by the District Health Department, which was carrying on an audit at the time, and Beschastnykh was immediately dismissed from her post.

"Hardly had she recovered from her illness than her husband abandoned her. Threatened with being brought to trial and not wishing to accuse her husband, Beschastnykh had scraped together everything she had and managed to return the

money. But since the reasons for her dismissal were on record, she could not find employment anywhere. Left with two small children, penniless, without work, and on top of that with the reputation of an embezzler, she did not know where to turn, and as a last resort had written to Deputy Levina.

"The two women talked for a long time. Vera Ivanovna did her best to comfort the unfortunate Galina. She realized this woman had no intention of committing a crime, that she was simply the victim of unfortunate circumstances.

"After leaving the unhappy woman, Vera Ivanovna went directly to the Chairman of the District Soviet, V. P. Vassilevsky, and told him the story. He simply asked her:

"'You are convinced that Beschastnykh will work honestly?—Then we'll help her together.'

"One of the local hospitals agreed to take her on, if Deputy Levina would vouch for her, which she was glad to go. Now Beschastnykh is working at the hospital as a head nurse."

The dispatch of the *Izvestia* correspondent went on to tell that many people who had suffered misfortune of one kind or another, appealed to Deputy Levina, who did not limit her work to office hours, but was always willing to receive people, day or night, in her office or at home, and was always ready to give them sensitive attention, wise advice and help.

The story might well end at this

point, as an interesting example of the kind of individual human problems with which Soviet Deputies concern themselves, along with their larger duties in public affairs. And it might well be said that special people of this kind might be found not only in the Soviet Union but anywhere else in the world. (There was Marcantonio for instance, and the kind of personal, human attention he used to give to the people who flocked to his New York office for help—but who has taken his place?)

But what gives this story special importance is that it was the same day taken up in the first page lead editorial of *Izvestia*, organ of the Soviet Government and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Under the heading "Side by Side With You," the editors told of a sorrowful woman who had come to their office for help in the case of her son, who had stabbed a friend in a drunken brawl, and was serving time as a result. The editorial expressed deep sympathy for the mother, who wanted the sentence reduced, and her son brought nearer to her, and had mobilized various friends to support her pleas.

But the editors also asked whether the mother had originally discharged her responsibilities properly, and whether the "friends" had done their part in time to help prevent the tragic outcome of the young man's drinking. They asked not repentance or tears after the event, but an active fight for the human being, as "the most precious asset of our society," declaring "Man is a friend to man!"

The editorial then cites the story of Vera Ivanovna, as an example

of the way people should help each other:

"This is a woman who knows how to fight for a person, for the good in him, without any fanfare. She took up the case of an 'embezzler,' who had strictly speaking, stolen money from nurseries. What could be worse? . . .

"But Vera Ivanovna, with the heart of a sensitive Soviet person, looked beyond all these formal and incriminating data and saw not a target of the law, but a woman who had suffered deeply, the mother of two children placed in a hopeless situation by a combination of difficult circumstances.

"Warmth of heart, sensitivity, exacting friendship and, when necessary, even severity must be as much a part of the basic qualities of the Soviet person as courage, decisiveness, doggedness in achieving our aims. . . .

"What a joy it is to know a friend is at your side! When you are in trouble he will stretch out a hand to stop you, as he would a careless pedestrian rushing in front of a car. With such a friend around, you will not go astray.

"Readers, be this kind of a friend to all who live around you. As friends, together, we shall march more lightly and swiftly through life!"

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